

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, all pending claims were rejected. No claims have been amended, canceled, or added in this paper. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 will remain pending in this application. Of these seventeen (17) claims, three (3) claims (claim 1, 14 and 17) are independent. Based only on the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

2. Claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,243 to Kulkarni, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Kulkarni") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,527 to McCormack, *et al.* (hereinafter, "McCormack"). Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

3. Independent claim 1 recites: "A method for providing information related to one or more networks, the method comprising: ... creating for display on a single display page a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire." (*See*, Applicants' claim 1, above.) In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner maintained the position that Kulkarni discloses this limitation of claim 1. This is incorrect.

4. As discussed in Applicants' January 19, 2005 response, Kulkarni is directed to providing tools for maintaining, viewing and managing the physical and logical topology of a network. In support of the assertion that the above-cited element of claim 1 is taught by Kulkarni, the Examiner directed Applicants to column 3, lines 42-47 and Figures 4A-4C of Kulkarni.

5. Kulkarni, however, in col. 3 lines 42-47 does not disclose a “visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguished from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation.” Rather, this cited section of Kulkarni merely references Figure 2 of Kulkarni, which illustrates a screen display including a viewer in which the topology of the system (logical or physical) may be displayed. As shown in Figure 2 of Kulkarni, a plurality of interconnected nodes with no capability of distinguishing one network segment from a different network segment.

6. As noted, the Examiner also relied on Figures 4A-4C of Kulkarni. However, these figures and their associated description reveal that they too fail to disclose or suggest a “visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguished from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation...” as recited in Applicants’ claim 1. For example, Figure 4A merely illustrates a view of several routers in a network; Figure 4B illustrates a view including only two of the routers that a particular user desires to monitor; and Figure 4C illustrates the display after another router is added. None of these Figures illustrate multiple network segments, let alone visually distinguishing between network segments in a manner analogous to that recited in claim 1.

7. McCormack, the secondary reference relied on by the Examiner, does not cure these efficiencies in Kulkarni. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references for at least the reason that Kulkarni, whether taken alone or in combination with McCormack or the other art of record, fails to teach or suggest Applicants’ invention as recited in independent claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

8. Independent claim 14 recites: “[a] network management node connected to one or more networks ... comprising: ... a database storing information related to a plurality of network devices ..., wherein said plurality of modules are operable to receive filter information including at least one selected filter; retrieve network device information based on said filter information from said database; and create a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment

comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire.” (*See*, Applicants’ claim 14, above.)

9. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 14 is allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as those noted above with reference to claim 1. Specifically, for the reasons noted above, Kulkarni, McCormack nor the other art of record, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest “said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire...” as recited in Applicant’s claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 14 should be withdrawn.

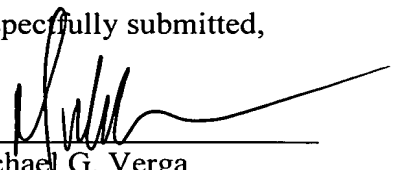
10. Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 17 is allowable over the art of record for at least the same reasons as those noted above with reference to claims 1 and 14. Specifically, for the reasons noted above, Kulkarni, McCormack nor the other art of record, whether taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest “said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire...” as recited in Applicant’s claim 17. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of claim 17 should be withdrawn.

11. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that the dependent claims are patentable over the art of record at least for the same reasons as those noted above.

Conclusion

12. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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